St Louis June 28
Rec'd
June 28 9 Waverly Place 3
General New York June 27/88

Dear Sir

Noticing the great
variability of the stamens
in some specimens of
Opuntia Rafinesquii that I
had collected, I was led
to observe the behavior
of the plant in a state of
Nature, & became convinced
that there was an adaptation
designed to ensure Cross-
fertilization. The plant is
protandrous, the stigmas [illegible]
expanding the second day.
The stamens are suitable from
the very first, & quickly move
forward & reach against the
back of the lobes of the
stigma when they are joined.

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I observed that when a bee
enters the flower in search
of pollen, the emission
produced by its body caused
the stamens to curve over
him so that he was pretty
sure to dust off a large
quantity of pollen when he emerged.
I suppose there facts are
well known, but I write
to ask if you can refer
me to any writings where
they are stated. And may
I ask you, too, whether
this mutability in characteristic
of the whole genus, & indeed
of the whole order of plants
under consideration?

Resp. Yrs.

W. R. Gerard.

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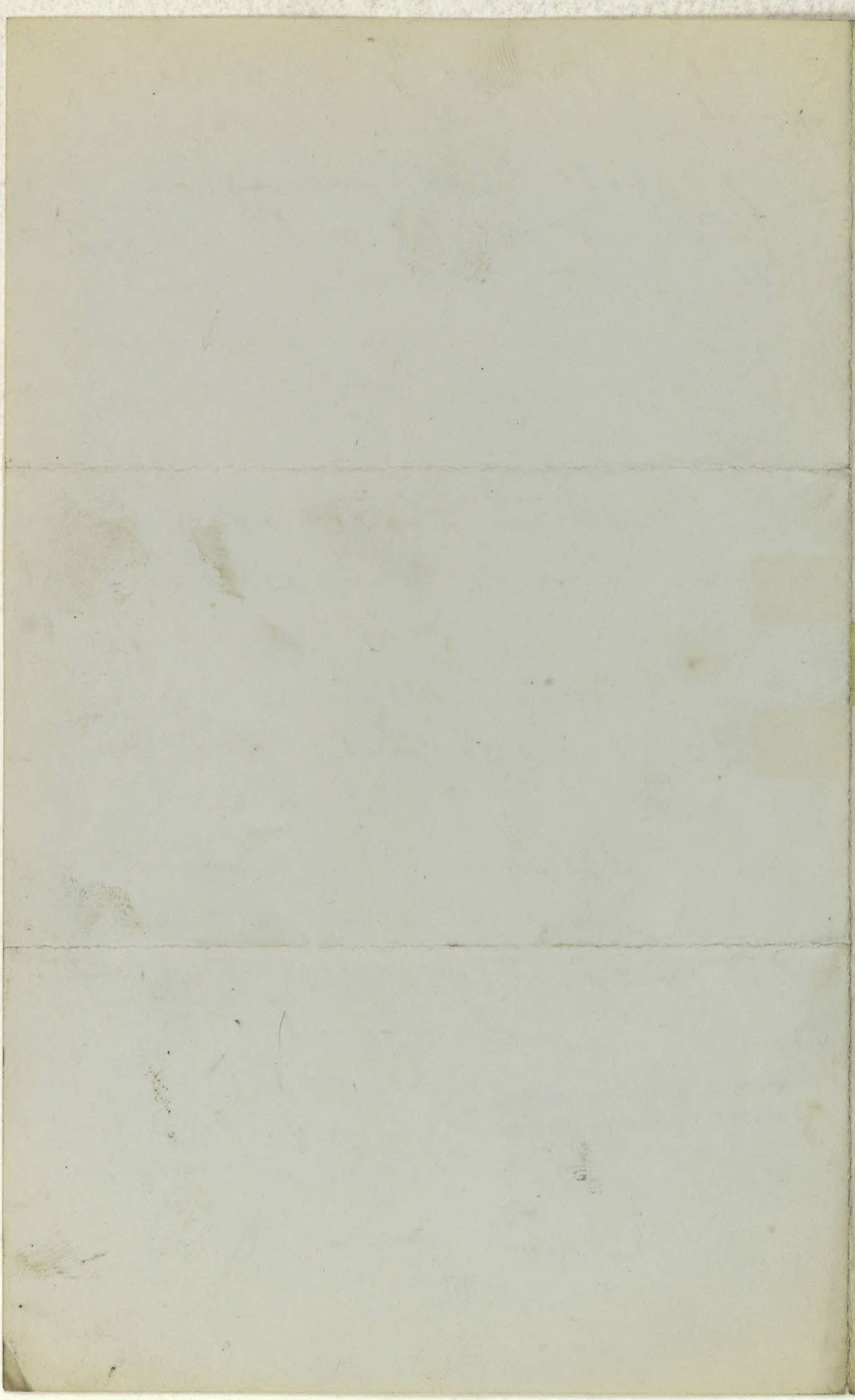

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Rec Jan 8

9 Waverly Pl.
New York Jan 4/82

My dear Sir

In the forward Jan
the missing November
Number of the Bulletin
with the December
Number, which has been
delayed by the printer.
There is nothing due from
Jan 4 exept the amount of
the current vol. Jn 1883
which Jan can send
whenever Jan choose. It
makes no difference to
me when.

Jan can obtain Jour
~~Look~~ Leaves by addressing
the administrator, Jno.
Thos. Hogg, Ashland House,

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this city, or Miss A. Leggett
54 E. 81st St.

The back nos. of the
Bulletin (those back of
1880) can also be
obtained of the Misses
Leggett, who own them.

Very truly Yrs.

N. L. Britton.

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P. S. Mrs. Leggett's Herbarium
will be offered for sale
in the December Bulletin.

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